

PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOCATION: Portland
MONDAY, September 12, 2016
11:00 A.M.

-----Minutes-----

Attendance:

Members Present

Chairman Ross Andrew
Commissioner David Darling (SFD)
Commissioner Susan Bransfield (PFD)
Commissioner Carl Chisem (MFD)

Members Absent

Staff Present

Wayne Bartolotta – Director of Central Communications
Joe Kronenberger – Deputy Director of Central Communications
Chief Robert Kronenberger – Middletown Fire Department
Deputy Chief Al Leary – Middletown Fire Department
Lt. Mike Desena – MPD
Bill McGovern – Hunters Ambulance
Lori Ruffino – Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Andrew moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting held on June 6, 2016, Commissioner Darling made a motion to wave the reading and accept the minutes as presented, motion was seconded, and all voted in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

MONTHLY REPORT

- Wayne Bartolotta gave the monthly report – call statistics were handed out:
 - August – 4,000 incidents
 - 911 calls little elevated for the month @ 2,400
 - Over 11,000 Administrative calls
 - Storm of August 11th – was reason for the surge
 - Storm was a 3 hour event – dispatch took a near strike with about \$12,000 worth of damage to electronic components
 - Received 468 phone calls and dispatched 126 police & fire incidents
 - Operated on backup & alternate means of dispatching
 - Portland Inter-Local agreement ratified – good for five more years
 - July:
 - Fireworks on the 2nd – there was heavy resource deployment because of mass gatherings & concerns for public safety – no issues
 - City wide drill on the 14th – went well, tested resources
 - Planning drill at Middlesex Hospital happening this fall
 - July 15th – statewide outage of 911 system
 - On part of quick thinking of dispatchers no impact to call processing
 - Dispatchers could see someone calling 911 but were unable to answer calls – took their personal cell phones and called them back and were able to process the calls
 - State rectified issue of outage and gave cell phones to all dispatch centers in the event this happened again
 - Portland has gone to a central station system for all their fire alarms – private company monitors their fire alarms and are received to dispatch over the phone by a third party
 - August:
 - Completed a second microwave project which was a major link that connects us to Ct. Valley Hospital on the ninth of August – no issues replacing
 - Completed school project in the city – every school in the city of Middletown has new communications equipment – waiting on the last piece to connect the equipment to dispatch
 - School received a \$400,000 grant – bought all new radios, portable radios, and cured the problems of talking within the school systems themselves
 - Motorcycle Mania was August 17th
 - Police & Fire had a lot of resources out there – no issues
 - August 22nd - presented a \$12.1 million radio project for referendum to the Council. Council approved and will be on November referendum. Once up and running, which will take about eighteen months, it is expected that a lot of the issues will be resolved
 - Middletown Fire Department did some preliminary testing with some fire ground concerns they had on 800 MHz and 150 MHz – getting those radios both to Westfield and South District so they can do testing on buildings in their district
 - Vacancies:
 - One retirement, the passing of Dispatcher Gifford, and just took a letter of resignation – down three plus trainee
 - Interviews conducted and will be extending a conditional offer to get one person online and expect at least a second conditional offer to come from the three

- Trainee put on hold until April
- Trainer – just appointed Nick DeJohn as the new trainer to replace David Boyce and will be training the new person

- Question by Commissioner Darling to Director Bartolotta as follows:
 - When you presented the \$12.1 million to the Council what was their discussion on it?
 - Director Bartolotta said there was a lot of discussion on it:
 - Questions about a satellite that he was not aware of, asked how we got to where we were and explained that out, they were particular concerns why only one person responded back to the RFP, there was talk of why we are at where we are now – basically up until two years ago had a really good communications system but because some changes, losing Aetna in the Westfield section, the narrow banding, and building issues, are presenting some problems as well as the need for more advance technology for police & fire
 - Commissioner Darling asked if the referendum will approve the company for the expenditure? Director Bartolotta explained that the referendum only puts the money in place and there is no need for an RFP. The intent is to start the contract process by the end of the month to have the contract ready to go so if tax payers approve the money will be able to move forward and not delay
 - Director Bartolotta explained on how they are going to get payments to the contractor
 - Hold back the lion's share of money to the vendor until they can prove it
 - Motorola is saying going to give everyone 95% coverage
 - Teams of people will go out and test areas – Motorola will have to demonstrate that they have met the requirements – system will be built in Illinois to have system demonstrated and then brought here
 - Will be put in an enclosure next to the firehouse – will not be a financial burden to the fire district
 - Portland will need to buy some equipment - \$200,000 or less and are aware of this
 - List of critical buildings figured into the proposal – list given by fire & police departments
 - Press release to go out before the vote to let public know
 - Commissioner Bransfield asked if there is a lead person for this project and Director Bartolotta stated it is Central Communications and will establish a group of people to be involved and oversee

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Chairman Andrew stated that a chairman needs to be elected for the new year for this board. Commissioner Darling made a motion to approve the appointment of Ross Andrew as Chairman, Commissioner Bransfield seconded, and all voted in favor. Chairman Andrew stated that he is no longer a member of the Westfield Fire Commission but was appointed to stay on this commission and assumes that they will appoint him again but will cross that bridge in February at their annual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- *Chairman Ross moved for adjournment, Commissioner Darling moved the motion, Commissioner Chisem seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Ruffino
Recording Secretary

Next meeting to be held on October 3, 2016 in Middletown